Advantages of Neem Tree

1573 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent researih has rediscovered the miraculous power of Neem tree in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Neem has the potential of checking the march of desert in the country, medicines and birth control pills for the mankind and has been proved as a good pesticide as D.D.T.;

(c) if so, whether Government has utilised the neem tree in these fields; if so, with what results; and

(d) whether Government also propose to plant more neem trees and protect them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Recent research results have confirmed the insecticidal and pharmacological properties of Neem.

(b) Yes, Sir. Neem tree is a versatile tree which can easily adapt to arid and semi-arid conditions. It can be recommended for poor and degraded lands.

(c) Its pesticidal properties are well known and various commercial formulations are now available in the country for control of different crop pests. In some instances these are as effective as synthetic chemcial pesticides. In addition, neem oil has also been found effective for mosquite control.

The antifertility potential of a neem extract is currently being investigated by the scientists.

To encourage use of neem based compounds in pest management programmes the Government has taken the following steps:

(i) Simplification of registration procedures.

(ii) Granting of provisional registration for several commercial formulations.

(iii) Commercialization of neem based pesticides during the period of provisional registration.

(iv) Use of neem based pesticides in the Integrated Pest Management Programme both at National and State level.

(d) The planting of neem trees is being encouraged as part of agro-forestry, social forestry and other forestry programmes.

Godown for Imported Sugar

1574. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantam of sugar in stocks of Food Corporation of India when the decision to import sugar was recently taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that the godowns of FCI did not have the capacity to store the imported sugar; and

(c) if so, what arrangements have been made for the storage of sugar in the ports as well as in other godowns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) FCI is arranging lifting, movement and distribution of indigenous levy sugar in respect of 12 States and 3 Union Territories which are mostly deficit in sugar. As such, FCI has reported a pipe-line stock of about 1.33 lakh tonnes in FCI godowns as on 31-3-1994.

(b) and (c) FCI is having adequate storage capacity to store imported sugar since the sugar so received would also be released for distribution to the State Governments/Union Territories through PDS.